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LETTER DATED 29 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 February 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls your attention to statements made by the United States Secretary of State on 16 February 2000 that confirm the involvement of the United States in certain activities, armed and otherwise, and in the financing of terrorist acts aimed at overthrowing the national regime in Iraq, and he points out the need for the United Nations, in accordance with its legal and moral responsibilities, to oppose attempts to undermine the integrity and independence of States Members of the Organization.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 28 February 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to call your attention to the statements concerning Iraq that were made on 16 February 2000 by United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in her testimony to the Committee on International Relations of the United States House of Representatives regarding the Fiscal Year 2001 budget request for international affairs. Replying to a question from Representative Benjamin Gilman, she said that the policy of the United States towards Iraq had not changed and that it believed that strengthening the embargo against the regime was important in order to contain Iraq. Albright then claimed that Iraq was threatening its neighbours and that the United States was therefore strengthening the embargo against it (which is a base falsehood). The Secretary of State went on to say that the second aspect of United States policy was commitment to changing the regime and helping the opposition internally and externally; that the Administration was discussing the question of supplying opposition members with non-military equipment and providing them with training programmes; that she had met with a large number of them; and that the United States position had thus not changed and was to contain the regime and strive for its replacement. She indicated that there was believed to be a possibility of introducing opposition groups into Iraq to begin the process of overthrowing the regime; that the Administration believed that this process would require regional support that did not presently exist; and that action would require support from United States forces.

It is doubtless clear from the foregoing that the United States of America is organizing certain activities, armed and otherwise, that have the aim of overthrowing the national regime in Iraq and provoking a civil war in the country. It is organizing, encouraging and financing terrorist activities to be carried out by certain mercenaries who have betrayed their homeland and are in the pay of those recruited by the United States intelligence services. In doing so it is violating the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as well as the norms of international law that prohibit the organization of such activities directed against another State. It is also violating all the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, which affirm that the country's security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence must be respected.

The statements made by the United States Secretary of State represent manifest political hypocrisy, and the world has lost all patience with such endless dissimulation. The most salient and vivid illustration of this has been provided by the resignations of those running the humanitarian oil-for-food programme. Those who have resigned can provide eyewitness testimony to the true nature of Iraq's suffering as a result of the United States policy of arrogance. There are many worthy people in the world, women and men, who support Iraq's position and who condemn the embargo being maintained against it. The worldwide surge of protest against the embargo has even reached the institutions of the

United States Government itself, inasmuch as 70 United States Congressmen recently called upon the President of their country to end the unjust embargo against the people of Iraq.

The United Nations has a legal and moral responsibility to defend the principles of its Charter, to oppose attempts to undermine the integrity and independence of its Member States and to reject a United States policy that seeks to return the international community to the law of the jungle and the reign of brute force. Until such time as the international community and its institutions take action to halt such aggression, the people of Iraq will continue to oppose the State terrorism of the United States in order to preserve the territorial integrity and independence of its country, uphold its right to a life of dignity, safeguard the principles of the Charter and of international law and defend the right of peoples to self-determination.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq